

Genetics Department  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

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Dear Alain :

I should have answered your letter sooner, but you should not have mentioned that you were about to take your vacation. This inhibited an immediate reply, and while I usually answer letters the day they are received, if I fail in this, they almost never get to be answered. Anyhow, we hope you enjoyed your trips, and hope you will tell us about them.

Just so you won't think that the winter you spent here was the worst we ever had, you'll be interested that we are just now recovering from a snowstorm that tied up traffic all over the Midwest for days. But the sun has come out again, and things should be more normal for a couple of weeks.

Nothing very much has happened since we saw you at Cold Spring Harbor. After the symposium, we extended our trip slightly by driving to Woods Hole (where I inflicted some slight damage to the bumper of our Plymouth, so that I had to drive around for some time without a rear bumper—a rather "sans defense a derriere" feeling.) We finally got back home, going via the Ontario corridor along which we visited Robinow at London. The bumper-and frame-injury to our car was bad enough that we accepted a chance to trade it in for a new Dodge which is slightly heavier, and has a fluid-drive-clutch, with manual gear-shift that is very useful on snow and in traffic.

A Prof. Paul Mamil from the Belgian Agronomic Institute at Gembloux visited here for some weeks. The last day of his stay, he wandered over to our lab. and told us a very interesting story about converting indifferent soil bacteria to specific nodule-forming types of Rhizobia. I got the impression that he knew you, and had once even sent you some tires. At any rate, we had another chance to practise our French.

Before this letter runs out, do you still want to pursue our arrangement for bartering books? If so, I would appreciate it very much if you could get the collected works of Winogradsky "Microbiologie du Sol, Problemes et Methodes, 50 ans de recherches", Masson et Cie., 1949. Let us know if there are any books or articles you would like in return.

Speaking of books, the collection of reprints in microbial genetics which I saw through the press, has come out in book form. I would be pleased to send you a copy, but am not sure how interested you would be.

Roger Stanier visited us last weekend or so; he is on his way to Paris, so he should see you after February. Quin may go also, next summer.

(Luttrell)  
I have a fellow in the lab now (Dr. David Skaar), from Sonneborn's lab. working on coli serology-genetics. Not much new so far. Zinder is finishing his thesis work—has succeeded in obtaining a serological "hybrid" of *S. typhi* x *typhimurium* (Formula IK, XII, 1;-). The genetic system in *Salmonella* is very different from *E. coli*, but somewhat like the transformations in pneumococcus that Hara and E-Taylor, e.g., is working on. It is very strange that one and only one trait (of many tested) is transferred at one time. For myself, I am thinking of beginning a study on some Actinomycetes, in which there is a great deal of suggestive morphological information, but practically no genetics. Next letter, I'll tell you about some experiments that Esther and I did, using velvet to solve the bacteriological problem of the origin of drug-resistant adapted strains.

With our best regards,

Sincerely